THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LEGAL AFFAIRS, LEGISLATIVE DEPARTMENT AND DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP) : (a) to (c). Provisions already exist in the Representation of People Act, 1951 to prevent use of caste or religion for electoral gains.

[English]

Handicrafts and Gift Fair

4250. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state :

(a) whether a three day Indian Handicrafts and Gift Fair held at Bangalore in September 1996;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the total amount spent thereon;

(c) the amount earned from sponsors and the amount of export orders received at the above fair;

(d) whether the above Fair was not open to the general public; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TEXTILES (SHRI R.L. JALAPPA): (a) and (b). Yes, Sir. This fair was a buyer-seller's fair between exporters and importers of handicrafts. An amount of Rs.1.93 crores was spent for organising the fair at Bangalore.

(c) An amount of Rs.72.84 lakhs was received from the participants towards their participation charges, advertisement etc. About Rs.39.00 crores worth export orders were received in this fair.

(d) and (e). In the overall interest of exporters who earn valuable foreign exchange for the country and for providing an opportunity for them to negotiate under conducive conditions with buyers, the fair was open to invited buyers and exporters.

Loans by United bank of India in Northern Region

4251. SHRI AMAR ROY PRADHAN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) the details of the loans disbursed by the United Bank of India in the Northern India region amounting to Rs.10 lakhs and above without any tangible security during the last three years;

(b) the percentage of the loan amount given to SC/ ST applicants in this region against the total advance.

(c) the number of loan applications received from SC/ST applicants by the above bank directly or through Government agencies and the number of applications out of them sanctioned and rejected and the reasons for rejections;

(d) the time limit stipulated to sanction a loan of Rs.10 lakhs and whether the banks is maintaining the RBI time scheduled while disposing of the loan applications; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House to the extent available.

[Translation]

Dumping by Western Coalfields Limited

4252. SHRI HANSRAJ AHIR : Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the farmers could not harvest their crops due to over dumping by Western Coalfields Limited in the banks of Wardha river (Maharashtra) :

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the compensation being paid by the Western Coalfields Limited to the farmers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRIMATI KANTI SINGH) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c). Does not arise.

[English]

Per Capita Central Assistance

4253. SHRI CHAMAN LAL GUPTA : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

the per capita Central assistance to each State/ Union Territory during the last three Plans as also the estimates of Current Five Year Plan period, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : Information is being collected and will be furnished.

Recommendations of the World Bank on Financial Reforms

4254. SHRI ANANT KUMAR HEGDE : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Union Government has been drawn towards the recommendations made by the World Bank in its recent report on the financial sector reforms and capital market development in India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Union Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.